EXHIBIT D

1 A No. I did not.

- 2 Q Did you review any documents in preparation for your
- 3 testimony today?
- 4 A Yes. I reviewed Barbie's document, my notes, and some
- 5 E-mails that were sent.
- 6 Q Barbie's document being the chronology of events that
- 7 she prepared and supplied to your attorneys?
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 Q You said notes that you had. What notes did you
- 10 review?
- 11 A Notes that I had kept on the document. I had a
- 12 document that I had just kind of kept --
- 13 Q Is that a document you provided to me?
- 14 MS. BLAKLEY: Yes.
- 15 MR. WILGOREN: It is?
- 16 MS. BLAKLEY: Yes.
- 17 Q Let me show you --
- 18 MS. BLAKLEY: It's the long document. It
- 19 should be at the back.
- 20 A Yes. That's the one.
- 21 MR. WILGOREN: Let me have this marked as
- 22 Exhibit No. 1.
- 23 (Photocopy of Abbi Laushine
- 24 Investigation Notes marked as Exhibit No. 1 for

- 1 Q Any that you wrote?
- 2 A. No. This is the document that I kept.
- 3 Q You also referenced E-mails that you reviewed?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q What E-mails were those?
- A Those were E-mails that Barbie had asked me for to

7

8

- meet with me. She wanted --
- 8 Q The meeting at The Fours?
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q So, one of which I can show you. I notice you have
- 11 the -- first reference in this Exhibit 1 is "9/2
- 12 off-site meeting with Barbie. Meeting held at The
- 13 Fours."
- 14 Is it possible that that meeting was held on
- 15 August 26th rather than on September 2nd?
- 16 A Yes. This date isn't an accurate date. It was just
- 17 the date I put -- I was trying to remember
- 18 approximately when we had gone.
- 19 Q In reviewing this document, Exhibit 1, any other
- 20 corrections that you want to make as to inaccuracies?
- 21 A No. I -- no.
- 22 Q Have you ever testified in any other court proceeding?
- 23 A I did once before for Continental Insurance, who I
- 24 used to work for.

(

- 1 identification.)
- 2 Q Let me show you what's been marked as deposition
- 3 Exhibit No. 1 and ask if you can identify this
- 4 document.
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q What is it?
- 7 A This is a document that I put together for just some
- 8 of the things that had happened.
- 9 Q Did you do it at the time these events occurred or
- 10 later on?
- 11 A I believe it was a mix. I did it not as it was
- occurring in the beginning but then as it was going
- 13 on.
- 14 Q Other than this document that's before you, did you
- have any other notes of any conversations you had with
- 16 Barbara Connick or anyone else regarding her
- 17 complaint? Any other notes that you have?
- 18 A No.
- 19 Q Any memoranda regarding Barbara Connick's situation?
- 20 A No. Not that I can recall.
- 21 Q None that you wrote; none that you received?
- 22 A Yes.
- 23 Q There were some?
- 24 A No. I mean there weren't any that I --

- 1 Q Is that in any way related to CNA?
- 2 A CNA bought Continental Insurance.
- 3 Q What was the case that you testified for for
- 4 Continental?
- 5 A It was a case of fraud. There was a leasing company
- 6 that was reporting payrolls as all clerical, when, in
- 7 fact, they were doing heavier work.
- 8 Q Worker's comp.?
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q It might have been a case that I handled. It sounds
- 11 familiar.
- 12 A It was out of Connecticut.
- 13 Q Actually, I represented the insurance company so it
- 14 doesn't matter. Could you tell me briefly your
- 15 educational background?
- 16 A I graduated from high school and I have two years in
- 17 college, but I never graduated from college. I had
- 18 night school also.
- 19 Q Where did you go to college?
- 20 A I started out at UNH and then I transferred -- there's
- a number of them because I did a lot of night
- 22 schools. I transferred to Rivier College in New
- Hampshire.
- 24 Then I went to Hartford in Connecticut and

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- 1 there was, I think, two -- possibly could have been
- 2 two more in the State of Connecticut, but I can't
- 3 remember their names. They were kind of funny.
- 4 Q Tell me your job history, work history.
- 5 A I've been with CNA for 15 years. Ten of that was with
- 6 the Continental before the merger. So, I've been with
- 7 CNA five years. I started as a rater trainee with
- 8 Continental and then I was promoted to lead rater,
- 9 assistant underwriter, and then I was an underwriter
- 10 for Continental.
- When I moved to Quincy, I stayed an 11
- 12 underwriter. A senior underwriter, and then in '98,
- 13 latter part of '98, I was offered the position of a
- 14 manager in the Mass. auto unit.
- 15 Q So, when in '98? Do you know?
- 16 A It was about in November. They had offered me the
- 17 position.
- 18 O That being the Mass. auto division?
- 19 A Yes.
- 20 Q Who did you replace?
- Laura Nicholas. 21 A
- 22 Q Now, prior or contemporaneous with taking the
- 23 position, did you have a meeting or discussion with
- 24 Laura Nicholas about the department?

- 11 people held and just my expectations -- of what would
- 2 be expected as far as me as far as dealing with CGI
- 3 and car insurance, the operations.
- 4 Q CGI?

1

- 5 A Is the vendor that does our Mass. auto policies. CNA
- 6 doesn't have a system. We use a separate vendor.
- 7 Q Did you discuss individuals who worked in the
- 8 department?
- 9 A Yes. We had some discussion on that.
- 10 O Tell me, as best you can recollect, everything she
- 11 told you about individuals working in the department.
- 12 A She explained some of the different personality types
- 13 that were in the unit as far as -- yes. I guess. We
- 14 just kind of talked about the different personalities.
- 15 Q Can you tell me specifically what she said about the
- 16 different personality types in the unit?
- 17 A She -- like, she had mentioned, like, there is an
- 18 individual Grace who kind of keeps to herself, and she
- 19 had, you know, let me know that. She appears to be
- 20 disorganized, but if you ask her anything, she's able
- 21 to locate it.
- 22 Bernadette is the underwriter. She can
- 23 sometimes come across a little bit on a harsher side, 24
 - but she's very knowledgeable of her position and that

10

- 1 A Can you just -- I'm not sure I understand the first
- 2
- 3 O Prior to or at the same time as when you became the
- 4 manager or shortly after, did you have a discussion
- 5 with Laura Nicholas about the department?
- 6 A Yes. We met.
- 7 Q Do you remember where you met?
- 8 It was in a conference room. Α
- 9 Q Anyone else in the meeting besides the two of you?
- 10 A Ruby Simmons.
- Who was Ruby Simmons? 11 Q
- 12 A She was the commercial insurance manager at the time.
- That's a position now held by Mr. Dye? 13 Q
- 14 A No. Jim Martin, and it's called a CUO currently.
- 15 Q Chief underwriting officer?
- 16 A Yes, and that just recently changed to that title.
- 17 O Can you tell me, to the best of your recollection,
- what Laura Nicholas said to you and what, if anything, 18
- 19 you said to her at that meeting?
- 20 A We basically talked about the unit because it was new
- 21 to me. Just the training positions. We were going to
- 22 be setting up a training schedule so I could learn the
- 23 position with her.
- 24 We talked about the different functions that

the unit works well together as a whole; that I would

12

- 2 also be getting some other individuals from premium
- 3 processing and typing. They would be coming over to
- 4 the unit.

1

- 5 Q Was there any discussion about any personality clashes
- 6 or problems in the department?
- 7 A No. She said the unit worked very well together.
- 8 Did Barbara Connick's name come up in that
- 9 conversation at all?
- 10 A I can't recall if it did.
- 11 Q How about Shauna Williams' name?
- 12 A I can't recall.
- 13 O Or Heather Gill?
- That one I know wouldn't have. She's not in the 14 A
- 15 unit. She wasn't in the unit.
- 16 Q She was never in your unit?
- 17 A No.
- 18 Q You said Grace's name came up?
- 19 A Uh-huh.
- 20 Q How about Ernie Goddard? Did his name come up?
- 21 A I can't remember specifically.
- 22 Q So, you took over the department in November of 1998.
- 23 Did you form any assessments of how the department was
- 24 operating after you'd been there for a period of time?

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- 1 A I'm not -- do you mean like a certain time after
- 2 November or?
- 3 O Yes. After you came on board, did there come a time
- 4 when you were able to identify how the department was
- 5 operating?
- 6 A Yes, but it didn't -- I wasn't really in the unit,
- 7 until full time until -- I think it was March. I went
- 8 out on maternity leave from November -- I believe it
- 9 was the end of February. It was the end of February.
- 10 Then I worked part time through March and then...
- 11 O So, that would be March of 1999?
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 Q At some point in time after March of 1999, did you
- 14 make any assessments about how the department was
- 15 operating?
- 16 A I didn't have what I thought a good handle as of yet
- because I was also handling an underwriting load.
- 18 When I came back from maternity leave, the
- 19 underwriting side was a little bit heavy, and I was a
- 20 little bit slow because of learning the new position
- and I didn't know what I didn't know on some of the
- 22 technical things that I needed to be involved with.
- 23 So, I offered to help with some of the backlog from the underwriting side because that's
 - 14
- 1 where I was coming from. So, I had that also until
- 2 September.
- 3 Q So, who was supervising the department between that
- 4 period, March and September?
- 5 A I was. I was in the department, but my focus wasn't
- 6 100 percent on the unit because I had the other --
- 7 Q When you were focused on the underwriting, people were
- 8 just sort of on their own to do their jobs?
- 9 A Yes. I was physically in the unit. I had a seat in
- 10 the unit.
- 11 Q You were devoting most of your time to underwriting?
- 12 A Not most. I would say half.
- 13 Q Did you have an opportunity to observe the interaction
- 14 among the employees in the department on a day-to-day
- 15 basis?
- 16 A Uh-huh.
- 17 Q Did you make an assessment about how the employees in
- 18 the department were interacting?
- 19 A It was -- they worked well. I did notice, I guess,
- 20 personality conflicts.
- 21 Q When did you first notice personality conflicts in the
- 22 department?
- 23 A I can't pinpoint an exact time.
- 24 Q Can you give me a month?

- 15
- 1 A I don't know if I can give you an exact month.
- 2 Q What was the nature of those personality conflicts
- 3 that you had identified?
- 4 A People tend to be very territorial, I guess. They
- 5 have a tendency -- it's their work and they want to do
- 6 it. They don't want anyone else to touch their work,
- 7 and if we have people helping -- some people don't
- 8 want to give up their work. I'd rather do it because
- 9 I know it's going to be done right.
 - That kind of delivery would make other
- people feel like that they weren't performing or that
- that individual may have thought there was something
- wrong with the way they performed.
- 14 Q Did you identify particular individuals who were part
- 15 of this conflict?
- 16 A Basically, it more happened with the raters. In the
- 17 rating unit.
- 18 Q Who were the people that were conflicting with each
- 19 other?

10

- 20 A Who were the raters at that time? There was Ernie --
- 21 Ernie Goddard. Should I list their last names?
- 22 Q Yes, please.
- 23 A Ernie Goddard, Grace Clemetson, Lisa Wright, Doris
- 24 Chan, Shauna Williams. I think that's it.
 - 16
- 1 Q They were having problems with each other or with
- 2 other people?
- 3 A No. Within a teaming.
- 4 Q So, among those raters that you just identified, you
- 5 denoted a conflict?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 Q Was any of that conflict based on race of the
- 8 particular individuals?
- 9 A No. More so of a performance issue.
- 10 Q Did you ever identify, either at that time or later,
- any issues among employees based on race?
- 12 A No.
- 13 Q Since you've been the manager of the auto lines
- department, how many employees have been terminated?
- 15 A In auto -- commercial auto?
- 16 Q Yes.
- 17 A Do you mean fired?
- 18 MS. BLAKLEY: Including layoffs or not?
 - MR. WILGOREN: No.
- 20 O I understand there was a layoff at a certain point in
- 21 time.

19

- 22 A No one.
- 23 Q Is Shauna Williams still employed in the department?
- 24 A No. She's not.

- What precipitated her leaving? 10
- She had another offer with another company. 2 A
- At the time she left, was she subject to any 3 Q
- disciplinary action?
- She was on an action plan. 5 A
- What is an action plan? 6 O
- Her action plan or an action plan -- it's a written 7 A
- plan -- there are certain steps that you have to take 8
- in order to -- when you're dealing with an employee 9
- that has a specific issue. 10
- It's a verbal warning and then it goes to a 11
- written warning, and then after the written warning, 12
- there could be termination or rehabilitation. It was 13
- a written -- at this point, it was a written -- I just 14
- lost the word. 15
- She was on a written warning? 16 O
- 17 A Yes.
- At the time she left? 18 Q
- Yes. Action plan. 19 A
- The action plan called for termination if the 20 Q
- performance did not improve? 21
- It did not call for termination. It stated -- there 22 A
- was a certain period of time -- she had, like, a 23
- probationary period, and then at that point, you would 24

- Yes. 1 A
- When did that occur? 2 O
- When did the? 3 A
- When were the performance standards implemented? 0

19

- They were implemented near the end of -- middle, end 5 Α
- of October -- October of '99. 6
- Were they implemented as a result of the complaints 7 0
- brought about by Barbara Connick? 8
- No. They were -- there weren't any set standards in 9 Α
- the unit or -- I shouldn't say there weren't any. 10
- There were some set standards but not everyone was 11
- aware of them and we, as being part of the management 12
- team and being a part of some meetings -- upper 13
- management was coming to me, We need to know, you 14
- know, if people are performing, and we have to have a 15
- 16 way to measure that.
- I had to come up with a way or figure out, 17 number one, if we had a plan. If there was a standard 18
- in place and what was their idea of it or what did 19
- they know of it, the employees. 20
- Mr. Edwards didn't direct you to assess Shauna 21 O
- Williams' work performance after Barbara Connick 22
 - complained about her?
- Can you repeat that, please? 24 A

18

- take further action. 1
- Which could have included termination? 2 Q
- Possibly. 3 A
- How far in her probationary period was she when she 4 0
- 5
- She was at the end. 6 A
- 7 Q I take it the action plan has certain goals to be
- achieved --8
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q -- in order to avoid further discipline?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q You say she was at the end of that probationary
- period. Had you formed an assessment as to how she 13
- was doing? 14
- Yes. She was performing. 15 A
- She was meeting those goals that you had set out in 16 Q
- 17 the action plan?
- 18 A Yes.
- 19 Q Do you know when she left?
- 20 A I would have to look. I can't remember the exact
- 21
- Now, was she placed -- Ms. Williams placed on the 22 Q
- action plan as a result of implementation of some 23
- performance standards? 24

- Mr. Edwards didn't direct you to assess Shauna 10
- Williams' work performance after Barbara Connick 2

20

- complained of the harassment? 3
- MS. BLAKLEY: Object to the form of the 4
- 5 question.
- Can you just say it one more time? 6 A
- Did Mr. Edwards direct you to assess Shauna Williams' 7 Q
- performance after Barbara Connick raised complaints 8
- 9 about her?
- 10 A No.

23

- When did you first become aware that Barbara Connick 11 Q
- had some claims of harassment based on her race? 12
- The very first time that I was aware was in an 13 A
- incident where she came to me and said that Shauna had 14
- called her white trash. 15
- Do you remember when that was? 16 O
- 17 A
- Was that at this meeting at The Fours? 18 O
- 19 A No. It was not.
- 20 Q Prior to that time?
- After that. 21 A
- After that time. Do you recall being at Barbara 22 O
- Connick's desk in the spring of 1999 and Barbara 23
- bringing your attention to some issues she had with 24

1	some	of the	African	American	employees?
	some	от ше	Allican	VIIIOIIO	Omproject.

- The only thing that I remember at that time because I 2 A
- was sitting with -- I had plans to sit with everyone 3
- to learn their functions -- was that I was sitting at 4
- Barbara's desk, and I was, you know, going over with 5
- her what her job is and how she performs it and what 6
- she goes through. I don't recall any statements 7
- regarding the African American people at that point. 8
- Now, at some point in time, you had a meeting with 90
- Barbara Connick at The Fours? 10
- 11 A Yes.
- Having reviewed the E-mails, would that have been on 12 O
- the 26th or 27th of August 1999? 13
- Yes. 14 A
- Who initiated that meeting? 15 Q
- Barbie. 16 A
- How did the meeting get initiated? 17 Q
- I got a call from Barbie. I believe she was at home, 18 A
- and she had asked me if I could take some time and 19
- meet with her; that she had some issues that she 20
- wanted to discuss in the unit and she did not want me 21
- 22 to say her name on the phone.

She didn't want me to say her name on the 23 phone and she wanted to, you know, keep it kind of low 24

they have positions because of the layoffs that were

23

24

- happening within CNA; and that there were a lot of 2
- dedicated people that were losing their jobs and that 3
- there were people in our unit that would have lengthy 4
- personal calls; that they would -- they didn't seem to 5
- really care that they worked at CNA; that they didn't 6
- have any respect for the company because of the lack 7
- of work ethic, I guess, that they had. She talked 8
- about Gretta and Grace having lunch at their desk and 9
- making some remarks about people in the unit. 10
- Did she say what particular remarks Gretta and Grace 11 O
- 12 made about people in the unit?
- I don't know if I asked that question. 13 A
- Well, you just testified that she made some remarks 14 O
- about Gretta and Grace making comments about people in 15
- 16 the unit.

1

- 17 A Uh-huh.
- What remarks did Barbara Connick say Gretta and Grace 18 O
- 19 were making?
- She stated that they would sit and gossip and talk 20 A
- about people's work -- about other people in the unit. 21
- What else do you remember about the conversation at 22 Q
- 23 The Fours?
- Well, she appeared to be upset about the fact that 24 A

- key but that she wanted to get together. 1
- As a result of that conversation, you did meet at The 2 O
- Fours on the 27th of August? 3
- 4 A Yes.
- Was there some issue about who would leave the office 5 Q
- first? 6
- I don't know -- I don't think it was an issue. I was 7 A
- trying to keep Barbie's privacy like she had asked 8
- me. She didn't want us to be going together. So, I 9
- had just suggested -- I wasn't sure if she felt more 10
- comfortable and then I would follow, but I was trying 11
- to keep it so she would feel comfortable with how we 12 left in order to meet but it wasn't an issue. I just
- 13 was seeing what would make her comfortable.
- 14 Anyone else with you at this meeting at The Fours? 15 Q
- 16 A
- The Fours is what? A restaurant? 17 Q
- Yes. It's a sports bar. It's a common place people 18 A
- 19
- Tell me, to the best of your recollection, what 20 O
- Barbara Connick said to you and what, if anything, you 21
- may have said to her in this meeting at The Fours. 22
- Barbie was talking about the -- primarily about people 23 A not performing; that people should feel lucky that 24

- people just didn't care about their job. 1
- 2 Q I see. How long did the meeting last?
- I believe it was two hours. It could have been an
- 4 hour and a half.
- Now, let me call your attention, again, to your write 5 Q
- up. It says that you discussed racial cliques. Tell 6
- 7 me what you said about racial cliques, if anything,
- and what, if anything, Barbara Connick said about 8
- 9 racial cliques.
- The racial cliques was the fact that Grace, who is 10 A
- African American, and Gretta, who is African American, 11
- seem to kind of just stick together, I guess, and they 12
- happen to be of the same ethnicity. Basically that 13
- kind of a thing where Grace and Gretta were always 14
- 15 talking.
- I see. Talking about employees? 16 Q
- 17 A Yes.
- Do you remember any particular things that Barbara 18 O
- reported to you about what they were saying about 19
- 20 other employees?
- Just, again, with the work, you know, people's work. 21 A
- Insulting people's work, you know; that they didn't 22
- 23 know what they were doing.
- Okay. Did she report to you that there was a serious 24 O

racial issue in the unit? 1

2 A No.

You read that in here, in her statement? 3 O

4 A Yes. I did.

Do you have any reason to believe that Barbara would 5 O

6 lie in this statement?

MS. BLAKLEY: Object to the form of the 7

8 question.

I don't know -- I don't know -- while I was there, I 9 A

don't recall anything about a racial slur or an 10

attack. 11

When you were there in the department or when you were 12 O

there at the meeting? 13

When I was at The Fours. 14 A

Do you recall Barbara telling you that Shauna 15 Q

Williams, a week earlier, had said to Grace Clemetson. 16

within her hearing, that Barbara was white trash and 17

they could get Heather Gill to beat her up? 18

19 A No.

Do you recall, at a subsequent meeting on September 20 Q

16th where you and Barbara were speaking to Charles 21

Edwards, stating to Mr. Edwards, Don't you remember, 22

Charles? I told you about that before. 23

Yes. When I was in a meeting with Barbie and Charles, 24 A

You don't recall that. At the meeting in The Fours, 1 Q

do you recall Barbara Connick telling you of the 2

threat that Gretta Thomas made to her back in June of 3

physical violence or physical assault? 4

She mentioned the situation. However, it wasn't said 5 A

to me in a way that it was a physical -- it was a 6

7

Tell me, to the best your recollection, what Barbara 8 Q

Connick told you about whatever happened between her 9

and Gretta Thomas back in June. 10

They were at an accounting luncheon, and Barbie was 11 A

there with another employee and I guess she was 12

helping this employee, and Gretta happened to be there 13

and she stated that Gretta looked at her in a way and 14

Barbie had said something like, Do you want to beat me 15

up or do you want -- Gretta had said, No. I don't 16

17 want to beat you up.

That's what you recall Barbie telling you? 18 Q

19 A Yes.

21

Do you recall anything else about your conversation at 20 O

The Fours with Barbara Connick other than what you

22 already told us?

23 A No.

Did Barbie express any fear for her personal safety at 24 Q

26

and I believe this is the conference call we were 1

talking about, we were referencing the meeting in 2

general. The Fours meeting in general, and I was 3

telling Charles that I had spoke to him about that 4

5 meeting.

8

9

11

You don't remember saying in response to Barbie 6 Q

saying, This is not the first time I've been harassed 7

based on my race, and recounting what Shauna had said

in late August and then you saying, Don't you

remember, Charles? I told you about that before. 10 MS. BLAKLEY: Object to the form of the

12 question.

What I had said to Charles, again, was we were talking 13 A

about The Fours in general; that I was reminding him 14

that I had talked to him; that we had that meeting --15

that Barbie and I had that meeting at The Fours. 16

It's your testimony under oath that Barbara Connick 17 Q

never told you that Shauna made that statement to her? 18

19 A Yes.

Did she tell you at that meeting at The Fours that 20 Q

Shauna and Grace and Ernie harassed her several times 21

a day, and she'd have to leave her desk to get away 22

23 from it?

I don't recall that.

this meeting at The Fours? 1

No. Not that I felt. 2 A

Now, after this meeting, did you report the meeting to 3 Q

28

4 anybody?

Yes. I went in and I talked with Charles Edwards. 5 A

What did you say to Mr. Edwards, and what, if 6 O

7 anything, did he say to you?

I went in and told him that I had met with Barbie and 8 A

9 that -- just explained what she had told me about, you

know, performance issues and, you know, people 10

spending too much time on the phone, and I kind of 11

just, you know, reemphasized or reviewed what had 12

happened at the meeting and then -- he listened, and 13

he kind of gave me suggestions on how maybe things 14

could be handled or, you know... 15

What specifically did Mr. Edwards tell you about how 16 Q

things could be handled or suggestions he made? 17

18 A Just kind of -- like one of the things that I can

remember was somebody spending too much time on the

20 phone, and you know, he was saying it's something you

just can't -- because they allow personal calls at 21

22 CNA.

19

23 So, you kind of just watch the person to 24

make sure, you know, are they getting their work done

	29
1	and if you sense, you know, they are spending too much
2	time on the phone, then you may just want to call them
3	aside and say, You know, I've been noticing this
4	morning you were on the phone for probably a half an
5	hour to an hour, and we need this work to get
6	processed.
7 Q	Did he tell you anything else?
8 A	I can't really recall.

- What action, if any, did you take after you had this 9 O
- meeting with Mr. Edwards? 10
- I don't remember. 11 A
- Did you start to observe the employees in the 12 O
- department to see if they were, in fact, spending a 13
- lot of time on the telephone? 14
- I was making myself more aware of what was going on in 15 A
- 16 the unit.
- Did you observe any problems with particular 17 Q
- 18 employees?
- I don't -- it's not -- I don't know -- I don't know if 19 A
- I noticed -- I don't know, I guess. 20
- You don't know? 21 O
- 22 A No.
- MS. BLAKLEY: Why don't you restate the 23
- 24 question.

an efficient or effective way for us to keep the work moving.

31

Is that sharing work. Is that having somebody pitch in. Is that batching work which means

5 do we put all our work here and people start taking it. So, I would start kind of throwing ideas out to 6

the floor, to the raters in particular, because they 7

were the ones that do most of the processing and was 8 9 met with, you know, it's my work. I don't want anyone

10 else touching it, kind of a thing. I can do it. I

11 don't need any help.

12 Q The question was: When did you first identify these

13 personality conflicts?

14 A That's when.

1 2

3

4

MS. BLAKLEY: Can you put a date on it, a 15 month? 16

THE WITNESS: No. 17

I was -- it was when I started having regular 18 A

19 huddles. September maybe.

Around the same time that Barbara Connick was raising 20 Q

21 her complaints?

Yes. If that's around the same time. 22 A

23 Q Were there any particular individuals who seemed to be

24 conflicting with each other?

30

- Did you observe whether any particular employees were 1 Q
- spending an excessive amount of time making personal 2
- 3 telephone calls?
- Yes. I mean I would be watching to see if --4
- Which particular -- I'm sorry. Did you finish? 5 O
- 6 A Yes.
- Which particular employees did you identify as 7
- spending too much time making personal telephone 8
- calls? 9
- Shauna Williams is one. 10 A
- 11 Q Anyone else?
- No. I don't believe at that point. 12 A
- When did you first notice that there were personality 13 Q
- conflicts in the department? 14
- 15 A I would have to say at huddles. At my weekly huddles.
- What's a huddle? 16 O
- We have a teaming, so it's like a meeting. 17 A
- Like football? 18 Q
- 19 A It's a meeting. A huddle. Same thing.
- When did you first notice that there were personality 20 Q
- 21 conflicts?
- 22 A If I was talking about -- again, if I go back to
- people's work. You know, I'm coming into the unit, 23
- and I need to learn how work is processed and what is 24

Well, not any one particular. They, as a group, had 1 A 2

32

- 3 O All the raters?
- Yes. Some more so than others. I won't say that they 4 A
- 5
- 6 O I have a list here somewhere. Was Ernie Goddard a
- 7 rater?
- 8 A Yes. He was.
- 90 Was he having personality conflicts?
- Yes. He's been with CNA for 25 years, and he pretty 10 A
- 11 much wants his work.
- Who was he conflicting with? 12 Q
- He didn't name -- like he wouldn't name anyone. If I 13 A
- suggested, Ernie, we need to take some of your work, 14
- he would say, I want to keep my work. I don't want 15
- 16 anyone else touching my work. I want it to be right.
- So, I'm going to keep my work. 17

18 So, that is what he used to say, but he 19 wouldn't say anybody in particular he didn't want

20 touching.

- I guess I have a misunderstanding of how you define 21 Q 22 personality conflict. Let me tell you how I define
- it, and you can tell me if you differ. Personality 23
- conflict, as I define it, is when one person conflicts 24

Pages 29 - 32

with another. Is your definition of personality

2 conflict different than that?

3 A It must be because I feel that is a personality of

4 Ernie.

5 Q That conflicts with everyone else in the department?

6 A On that issue.

7 Q So, he was conflicting with L. Wright and G. Millet

8 and S. Williams and D. Chan and G. Clemetson, all

9 those other raters?

10 A Yes. Well -- yes.

11 O He conflicted with all of those because of the way he

12 wanted to do his work?

13 A Not on a constant basis.

14 Q Would this personality conflict include disagreements

15 between individuals?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Would it include disparaging body language between

18 individuals?

19 A It could.

20 O Rolling of the eyes, for example?

21 A Yes.

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22 Q Any other individuals that you identified as having

23 personality conflicts in September of 1999?

24 A As I stated before, the unit -- the raters in the unit

1 Q Regarding continuing personality conflicts based on

35

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your observations in the huddle on November 17th?

3 A Uh-huh.

4 O That would be 1999?

5 A Yes.

7

6 Q What did you witness today that you reference in the

E-mail?

8 MS. BLAKLEY: Today being November 17th?

9 MR. WILGOREN: Today being November 17th. 10 A This was a meeting that, again, we were talking about

some ideas and it was -- some people weren't agreeing,

12 and there were some people that were offering up ideas

and some people that kind of had

14 they're-tired-of-these-people kind of thing and some

of the things that were going on that -- you could

16 tell the person that was speaking was starting to get

17 uncomfortable.

18 Q Which people did you identify in the department that

19 were exhibiting lack of respect?

20 A Let's see. I guess there was -- there would be Ernie,

21 Grace, Shauna, Margaret. Those four come to mind.

22 Q What's Margaret's last name?

23 A Mullane.

24 Q Margaret Mullane?

34

-- their teaming wasn't there. So, that led -- so, I

2 would say the individuals in the rating unit would

kind of rub up against each other. Like that Ernie

thing. It just wasn't that Ernie didn't want his work touched. There was another one, Doris, who liked to

do her work, you know.

Lisa would volunteer for, you know, people to help people out and that kind of thing, but they weren't all meshing together. So, it was kind of like

11 Q Any of these personality conflicts based on race?

12 A No. Not that I noticed. It was more of performance

or the idea of what people thought it was.

14 Q Is this personality conflict resolved or still

15 existent in the department?

16 A There is still an issue. We have been working it and

it has improved. Actually, it's gotten better.

18 MR. WILGOREN: Mark this as the next

19 exhibit.

20 (Photocopy of E-mail marked as

21 Exhibit No. 2 for identification.)

22 O Ms. Laushine, let me show you what's been marked as

23 deposition Exhibit No. 2.

24 A Yes. It's an E-mail that I sent.

1 A Uh-huh.

3

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17

2 Q Which individuals did you identify were exhibiting

lack of courtesy and professionalism? The same?

4 A I guess it wasn't -- this memo, too, wasn't just to

5 pinpoint -- I may have had some people in mind. I

6 can't remember who, but it was like a collective, you

7 know. There were some things going on in the huddle

8 and these things can't go on. We've talked about this

9 before.

10 Q Well, which people had you identified before who had

exhibited lack of respect, common courtesy, and

12 professionalism?

13 A Before what?

14 O You just said these were things that you observed

before the huddle.

16 A I'm sorry. I meant during the huddle. I observed

these issues. It could have been somebody's body

language. So, the intent of this memo was just to say

that, you know, we need to be cognizant of some of the

things we're saying, doing, while others are speaking.

21 Q By "we," those individuals you previously identified?

22 A Yes, and just a general message to the unit as a

23 whole.

24 Q When was the next time that you had any communication

SCRUNCH™ Pages 33 - 36

- with Barbara Connick about her claims of racial 1
- 2 harassment?
- Prior to the first time -- I mean after the first 3 A
- time?
- When was the first time? 5 Q
- The first time I had a conversation with Barbie was 6 A
- the time that I had gotten Charles involved when she 7
- had said Shauna called her white trash and threatened 8
- to have somebody meet her in the... 9
- 10 O When was that?
- I don't remember the date. 11 A
- How did it first come to your attention? 12 O
- She found -- I had been away from my desk. I was over 13 A
- in a different part of the office, and she had come 14
- over to me and she looked visibly shaken and she said, 15
- Shauna just said the piece of white trash that sits in 16
- 17 front of me. I'm going to have somebody meet her in
- 18 the garage afterward.
- That's when I told her to wait or that I had 19 to go find Charles because that was a serious issue. 20
- Did you find Charles? 21 Q
- Yes. I did. He was in Farmington. I got him by 22 A
- 23 phone.
- 24 Q Tell me what you said to Charles and what, if

be okay for us to bring Shauna in to talk with Shauna 1

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- 2 to tell her exactly what Barbie had said, and at
- 3 first. Barbie was a little hesitant. She wasn't sure
- 4 because she was afraid, and then it was decided that
- it was okay that we would be bringing Shauna in. 5
- Do you remember anything else that was said either by 6 Q
- 7 Barbara or by Charles or by yourself?
- 8 A Not that I can recall.
- 90 Do you recall Barbie saying -- recounting that Gretta
- Thomas had tried to beat her up in June or threatened 10
- 11 to beat her up in June?
- MS. BLAKLEY: Object to the form of the 12
- 13 question. I don't recall what that. 14 A
- Do you recall her saying that, in late August, Grace 15 O
- called her white trash and threatened to have Heather 16
- 17 Gill beat her up?
 - MS. BLAKLEY: Object to the form of the
- 19 question.

18

- 20 A No. I don't know that.
- Do you recall saying -- or her saying, Remember, Abbi, 21 Q
- 22 I told you about that at our meeting, and then you
- saying, Charles, you remember I told you about that? 23
- 24 Do you remember that part of the conversation?

- 1 anything, he said to you.
- I got him on the phone, and I told him exactly what 2 A
- 3 Barbie had said to me and he said, We need, you know
- -- We need to get them in here. We'll get them in, 4
- 5 and we'll have a conversation with both of them and
- 6 kind of explain what, you know, CNA's rule is on
- 7 things of this nature.
- 8 Q What happened next?
- I got Barbie. Barbie was the first one we had in the 9 A
- office. We were in a conference room and Charles was 10
- on a speaker phone, and you know, Charles did 11
- primarily most of the talking and he asked Barbie to 12
- 13 kind of repeat what had happened and Barbie went over
- 14 what had happened.
- Instead of summarizing, why don't you tell me what 15 Q
- Barbie said and what everyone said during the course 16
- 17 of the conversation.
- Okay. Barbie told Charles that she had said, you 18 A
- know, Shauna had called her white trash and threatened 19
- to meet her in the parking lot, and Charles said, That 20
- 21 was a very serious allegation and that people can be
- 22 terminated for that.
- He asked how she was feeling, and she was 23 nervous and he had asked her if she thought it would 24

- I remember telling Charles that I was reminding him 1 A
- 2 that we had the discussion about the meeting at The
- 3 Fours.
- 4 Q Do you remember telling -- did you say that in
- 5 response to Barbie saying, Remember I told you about
- 6 the prior threat by Grace?
- 7 MS. BLAKLEY: Object to the form of the
- 8 question.
- 9 A No. I wasn't saying to Charles, Remember -- because
- 10 that threat from Grace or Gretta threatening to beat
- 11 her up with Heather Gill, that was never said. So, I
- 12 was just reminding Charles of that meeting.
- 13 Q It's your testimony as we sit here under oath that
- 14 Barbara Connick never told you about that prior threat 15 at any time?
- 16 A It was not at The Fours.
- 17 Q Where was it?
- The threat that's with Gretta is the threat with the 18 A
- 19 -- it was the accounting meeting when -- and I didn't
- 20 take it as a threat as was when Gretta had said to
- 21 her, What do you want? To beat me up, and Barbie
- 22 said, No. I don't want to beat you up.
- 23 Q Did Barbara Connick tell you at any time about Shauna
- 24 calling her white trash and that she threatened to

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1 have Heather Gill beat her up?

- 2 A No.
- 3 O Never?
- 4 A Not at The Fours.
- 5 Q I'm asking at any time.
- 6 A I believe later at one of the last meetings that I had
- 7 with her. She kind of recounted things that had
- 8 happened.
- 9 Q When was that?
- 10 A It was a couple of -- it was in the end of -- end of
- 11 September, beginning of October. It was the very last
- meeting that I had with her.
- 13 Q You read her statement?
- 14 A Yes. I did.
- 15 Q You read where Barbara Connick said she told you at
- the meeting at The Fours at August 26, 1999, that a
- 17 week before Shauna called her white trash and had
- 18 threatened to have Heather Gill beat her up?
- 19 A There was never any mention of that.
- 20 Q I'm not asking that. You read that statement in her
- 21 writing?
- 22 A Uh-huh. Yes.
- 23 Q Do you have any reason why Barbara Connick would lie?
- 24 A I have no reason.

So, we were -- Charles was talking with her about, you

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know, that we protect our employees here in work; that

3 we promote a safe work environment and that if she

felt the need to have protection outside of work, then she may need to look to the police for her if she felt

she may need to look to the police for her if she felt she needed that.

Then -- and then he suggested that she take the next day off, which happened to be her day off, and then we gave Barbie a few minutes to kind of get herself together so that -- because she was also going to be leaving for the day because she was pretty much shaken up, and then we called Shauna in and we had asked Shauna -- we told Shauna that we had had Barbie in and that Barbie had stated she had called her white trash and made violent threats toward her and Shauna

She did not make those statements and then Charles proceeded to go into that CNA's policy that racial slurs and threats of violence are not tolerated by the corporation; that they are grounds for immediate termination. He asked her if she understood that. She said, Yes. She did and that she did not say them and then Shauna left.

24 Q Are there phone records that are kept for each of the

42

- 1 Q Is it possible you may not remember at this time?
- 2 A No. It was not said to me.
- 3 O On the 17th -- on the 16th of September, have you told
- 4 me now the entire conversation between you and Barbara
- 5 Connick and Charles Edwards?
- 6 A Say that again, please.
- 7 O Have you now testified as to your recollection of the
- 8 entire conversation between you and Barbara Connick
- 9 and Charles Edwards?
- 10 A That I can remember. Is this the meeting in the
- 11 conference room with him on the phone?
- 12 Q Yes.
- 13 A Yes.
- 14 O What did you do after that?
- 15 A After we had Shauna in or after Barbie left?
- 16 O After Barbie left?
- 17 A After Barbie left -- Charles had asked Barbie -- he
- suggested that she should take the day -- oh, Barbie
- 19 actually -- I didn't remember. Barbie was afraid
- 20 outside of work also, and that was another thing we
- 21 were discussing.
- 22 Q Afraid of what outside of work?
- 23 A Afraid of the threat that Shauna had made. So, she
- was kind of was afraid to walk out of the building.

1 telephones --

said. No.

- 2 A I don't know.
- 3 Q -- of employees in your department?
- 4 A I don't know. I've never seen one.
- 5 Q After Shauna left, what happened next? Did you and
- 6 Charles speak?
- 7 A Yes. We did. I was, you know, talking about what we
 - should do and how to proceed, and I'm drawing a blank
- 9 as far as -- I mean we did discuss it. I can't
- 10 remember with what though.
- 11 Q Let me go back to your statement here. Your notes.
- 12 It says here, "I spoke to Shauna right after. She
- 13 apologized."

Was it that you spoke to her right after the meeting you held with Barbie Connick?

MS. BLAKLEY: I'm sorry. Where are you?

MR. WILGOREN: I'm two-thirds of the way down on the first page.

- 19 A This part.
- 20 Q That's the 16th?
- 21 A That was a different -- actually, that is the same day
- 22 but it was earlier.
- 23 Q I'm confused. Same day as what?
- 24 A This is the actual day that Barbie -- that Shauna had

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1	stated those	e things to	Barbara or	was	said to have
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- 2 said those things about Barbie about the white trash
- 3 and then I had to call her in and talk with Charles.
- 4 That was that same day. That was the morning of that
- 5 day.
- 6 Q So -- I see. So, this is your actual observations on
- 7 the 16th. You saw Barbie and Shauna were arguing on
- 8 the floor. You stopped it.
- 9 A Yes
- 10 Q What did you observe when you saw Barbie and Shauna
- 11 arguing on the floor?
- 12 A Barbie was saying how some things weren't any of her
- business, and Shauna was saying, It is my business, or
- 14 it's none-of-your-business kind of a thing, and they
- were both pretty loud and I went over, and before it
- got much further, I kind of said that they have to
- stop; that it's unacceptable on the floor. That's
- 18 what I observed.
- 19 O You took Barbie into a separate room and spoke to her
- 20 for about an hour?
- 21 A Yes.
- 22 Q She indicated there were cliques?
- 23 A Yes. She kind of went over again what we had talked
- 24 about at The Fours.

record for Charles Edwards?

2 MS. BLAKLEY: Object to the form of the

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- 3 question.
- 4 A I don't --

1

- 5 Q You didn't think it was important to correct Shauna's
- 6 inaccurate statement about Barbie?
- 7 MS. BLAKLEY: Object to the form of the
- 8 question.
- 9 A Can you just rephrase it?
- 10 Q Shauna Williams is saying Barbie is a troublemaker.
- You just told me before that you've never seen
- 12 anything to support that assertion, correct?
- 13 MS. BLAKLEY: Object to the form of the
- 14 question. That's argumentative.
- 15 O Is that correct? Is that an accurate statement of
- 16 your testimony?
- 17 A That I never?
- 18 Q You never saw anything that would lead you to conclude
- 19 that Barbie Connick was a troublemaker.
- 20 A Correct
- 21 Q Given that testimony, did you or did you not feel it
- 22 important to correct the statement that Shauna had
- 23 made to Charles Edwards?
- 24 A It's not that I didn't think it was important. I just

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- 1 Q I see. Then you spoke to Shauna?
- 2 A Uh-huh.
- 3 O She called Barbie a troublemaker?
- 4 A Yes. She did.
- 5 O Did you find Barbie to be a troublemaker?
- 6 A No. I did not.
- 7 Q Did you find Shauna to be a troublemaker?
- 8 A No. I did not.
- 9 Q You and Charles spoke with Barbie. You and Charles
- 10 spoke with --
- 11 MS. BLAKLEY: Shauna.
- 12 O -- Shauna.
- 13 MR. WILGOREN: Thank you.
- 14 Q By the way, Shauna, in the meeting with yourself and
- Mr. Edwards on the telephone, again labeled Barbie as
- 16 a troublemaker?
- 17 A When I'm reading this, yes.
- 18 Q Does this help refresh your recollection that that was
- 19 said?
- 20 A Yes. It does.
- 21 Q Did you say anything when she said that?
- 22 A No. I kind -- I was pretty much quiet in this
- 23 meeting
- 24 O You didn't think it was important to correct the

- didn't.
- 2 Q Did you at any time tell Charles Edwards that you
- didn't think that was an accurate portrayal of Barbara
- 4 Connick?

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- 5 A I don't recall. I don't know if I did or didn't.
- 6 Q How would you assess Shauna Williams' ability to tell
- 7 the truth?
- 8 A I don't know if I could.
- 9 Q Did she ever lie to you before?
- 10 A Not that I know of, no.
- 11 Q Ever misrepresent her work product to you?
- 12 A No
- 13 Q Ever misrepresent anything to you?
- 14 A Not that I was aware of, no.
- 15 Q When you met with Shauna, did she threaten to go over
- 16 your head to Charles Edwards?
- 17 A When it was just me and Shauna?
- 18 Q Yes. When it was just you and Shauna.
- 19 A I don't recall.
- 20 Q It says says here that Shauna Williams said, "Barbie
- 21 gossips, spreads rumors, and listens in on personal
- 22 phone calls." Is that what Shauna said?
- 23 A Yes.
- 24 Q Did you find any information that would corroborate

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that statement?

2 A No.

1

- Did you take any action as a result of the meetings of 3 Q
- the 16th?
- That day? 5 A
- That day or any days in the future. 6 O
- Yes. We had a meeting with the unit as a whole. It 7 A
- 8 was myself --
- When was that? Would that have been October 4th? 9 Q
- 10 A
- Between September 16th and prior to October 4th, did 11 Q
- 12 you take any action?
- I don't believe so, no. 13 A
- Between September 16th and October 4th, did Barbie 14 O
- express to you any further concerns about her personal 15
- 16 safety?
- She was on vacation shortly after, and then when she 17 A
- came back, she was still very nervous about the 18
- situation: that she didn't feel that she would be able 19
- to concentrate on her job given that Shauna was there. 20
- When she returned to work after her vacation on the 21 Q
- 27th of September 1999, did you have a discussion 22
- about moving Shauna's work location? 23
- 24 A There was -- what was going on in the office was there

- please?
- 2 MR. WILGOREN: I apologize. Tone it down.

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- 3 Q I apologize. Are you finished now?
- 4 Α Uh-huh.

1

- In fact, you were overruled by Charles Edwards over 5 O
- 6 the issue of moving her desk?

7 MS. BLAKLEY: Objection to the form of the

- 8 question.
- 9 A I don't recall that.
- Well, you wanted to move the desk, and Charles didn't 10 O
- 11 think it was a good idea, right?
- 12 A Again, we had a conversation. I don't remember why we
- 13 came to the conclusion that we did.
- 14 O Well, let me ask you: You just testified you thought
- it was a good idea to move her desk? 15
- 16 A Yes. At first, yes.
- Charles told you he didn't think it was a good idea. 17 Q
- 18 Is that correct?
- 19 MS. BLAKLEY: Object to the form of the
- 20 question.
- I don't know if he exactly said, I don't think it's a 21 A
- 22 good idea. We had a discussion about moving the desk.
- Did he make a decision not to move her desk at that 23 Q
- 24 time?

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- was a moving that was going to be taking place and 1
- 2 people's desks were going to be moved, and there were
- a couple of people's desks that needed to be moved in 3
- order to make room for other people coming -- kind of 4
- 5 taking over that space, but there was -- I don't
- remember having, like, a discussion about moving 6
- 7 desks.
- Did you consider moving Shauna's desk as a way of 8 Q
- toning down the problem between her and Barbara? 9
- Yes. That was considered at one point. 10 A
- Who considered it? 11 O
- Charles and myself. 12 A
- What was the discussion between Charles and yourself 13 O
- about that possibility of moving Shauna's desk? 14
- We talked about -- I remember having a conversation 15 A
- about it, and I can't remember why it was decided that 16
- it wouldn't -- we wouldn't move it. Barbie didn't 17
- 18 want her desk moved.
- Did you, at one point, think it was a good idea to 19 O
- move Shauna's desk? 20
- Yes. I thought it might help the situation --21 A
- 22 O What --
- 23 MS. BLAKLEY: Can you let her finish her
- 24 answers before you get out your next questions,

- 1 A Again, I don't remember if it was his decision or if
- it was -- because we did the discussion and when 2

normally when Charles and I were talking, it was -- we

- 4 kind of have discussions and then we decide. I'm not
- overruled. 5
- Did you have a discussion with Barbie Connick where 6 Q
- 7 you said to her, Let's see how it goes for the week,
- 8 and if it's still not good, we'll move her?
- 9 Yes. When Barbie came back, she came back and was Α
- 10 wondering why Shauna's desk hadn't been moved. I had
- thought that possibly with the time away that things 11
- 12 would be able to be worked out.

When I had the conversation with Barbie and

- 14 Shauna about being able to work when they had that
- 15 argument on the floor, I had asked them if they would
- 16 be able to, you know, work near each other because
- 17 they would have to because their desks are there.
- 18 Barbie wasn't too sure, and Shauna said she 19 would be able to perform her work while Barbie was
- 20
- 21 O Do you recall giving Barbie Connick her review around
- 22 September 28, 1999?
- 23 A
- 24 Q How was her review? Do you recall?

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It was -- I'd say it was basic for a review because I 1 A had not been in the unit long enough to observe 2 performances at levels that should be when you're 3 giving a personal review, and I had had conversations 4 5 with Charles as to, you know, I'm manager. I'm new to the unit. I've got a lot of reviews to do, but I 6 7 haven't been in the position long enough to review 8 performance-type issues. How do you go about writing

You know, he said, In that case, to be fair to the employee, you explain the situation saying, you know, due to, you know, me coming on board and in the short term that I observed, there is not really anything, you know, to note, but we will rate you the same as you were the prior year.

- 16 O That was a two. Is that correct?
- 17 A Yes.

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18 O That's meets --

up a review.

- 19 A Meets and sometimes exceeds, I believe.
- 20 Q Did you also have a discussion that same day with
- 21 Barbie Connick about her and Shauna having a meeting
- 22 to work out their differences?
- 23 A I can't recall.
- 24 Q Do you recall telling Barbie that Shauna was too

Did Barbie report to you a conversation between Shauna

55

- and Grace where Shauna said or Grace said, Stupid,
- 3 stupid people, and Shauna said, I'm going to get you,
- 4 and Grace said, No. I'm going to get you, and Shauna
- 5 said, Oh, oh. You're in trouble now. Grace said, Oh,
- 6 I'm scared. Shauna said, I should be shot. Do you recall?
- 8 MS. BLAKLEY: Object to the form of the question.
- 10 Q Do you recall Barbie reporting to you such a
- 11 conversation when you returned from Reading -- within
- 12 a couple of days?

1 Q

- 13 A I don't recall that.
- 14 Q Do you recall Barbie telling you that Grace said, So
- sue me, and they started to laugh?
- 16 A Our last meeting that I had with Barbie when I
- 17 remember her saying this or to that...
- 18 Q You remember her recounting this conversation or words
- 19 to that effect?
- 20 A Not -- I don't think it was after -- I remember it,
- but at our last meeting that we had.
- 22 Q Do you know when that was?
- 23 A No. I don't know that date, but it was the very last
- time I spoke with her, I believe.

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- 1 aggressive?
- 2 A No.
- 3 Q Was the relationship between Shauna and Barbie Connick
- 4 getting any better as they approached the end of
- 5 September?
- 6 A I would say it was the same. There wasn't -- there
- 7 were no outbursts. There wasn't any interaction
- 8 between the two of them.
- 9 Q I would imagine you would recall the 29th of September
- 10 1999. You were on a business trip to Reading,
- 11 Pennsylvania?
- 12 A Yes. I was.
- 13 Q You were mugged, I guess?
- 14 A Yes. Sort of. I got my purse stolen.
- 15 O At some point after that when you returned to the
- office, did Barbie Connick report to you a further
- 17 problem she had had with Shauna while you were away?
- 18 A I don't recall.
- 19 Q Let me see. Did she tell you of a conversation
- 20 between Shauna and Grace where they were standing next
- 21 to Ernie's desk? By the way, where was Ernie's desk?
- Was that right next to Barbara's?
- 23 A Yes. Right across. Barbie was here and Ernie was
- 24 here.

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- 1 Q I call your attention to October 4th. Take a look at
 - your notes here. You have a statement here at the
- 3 bottom, "The situation has gotten out of control." Do
- 4 you see where that says that?
- 5 A Oh, yes.

2

- 6 Q What did you mean by that?
- 7 A Just that because Barbie was still very visibly still
- 8 upset and she's still talking about certain things
- 9 that have happened and that she's still nervous, and
- she just keeps talking about it.
- 11 Q That was what you were referencing when you said, "The
- 12 situation has gotten out of control"?
- 13 A Yes.
- 14 Q Just her statements?
- 15 A Yes. Again, I guess I was feeling overwhelmed.
- 16 Q Overwhelmed in what respect?
- 17 A Not being able to have an answer for Barbie. When she
- 18 would talk with me, it just seemed like I could not --
- 19 I could listen a lot. There wasn't a lot of things I
- 20 could offer or suggest that would seem to make her
- 21 feel comfortable or be able to work or reassure her.
- 22 Q I'm still not sure I understand what you meant by --
- 23 what was the situation?
- 24 A The situation with the racial slur back when it first

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1 happened.

- What was it about that situation with the racial slur 2 Q
- 3 that had gotten out of control?
- It wasn't -- again, I could have written the wrong 4 Α
- word. I just was -- the way I was seeing it was that 5
- it still was an issue. The racial piece was still an 6
- issue, and it was affecting Barbie. 7
- If the racial piece was still an issue, did you take 8
- any further action to deal with that issue? 9
- We had the meeting that day with management. 10 A
- 11 Q Did that resolve the situation, or did the situation
- continue to be out of control after that time? 12
- It was not out of control. 13 A
- How was it now in control? 14 O
- Well, we had this meeting and they talked about --15 A
- Charles and Jim talked about certain things that were 16
- acceptable and unacceptable in the work environment. 17
- So, a message was sent to the staff. 18
- If the situation was the racial slurs and Barbie's 19 O
- reaction to it, was Barbie now satisfied with the 20
- 21 outcome based on the meeting?
- 22 A No. She was not.
- To that extent, the situation, as you defined it, was 23 Q
- 24 still out of the control?

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- MS. BLAKLEY: Object to the form of the 1
- 2 question.
- I wouldn't say it was out of control after the 3 A
- 4 meeting.
- The meeting solved the problem with the situation, 5 Q
- 6 brought it into control?
- 7 A I don't know.
- 8 Q Any other employees complain about Shauna Williams?
- Do you mean -- what do you mean by "complain"? 9 A
- Any complaint whatsoever. Anybody ever come and tell 10 Q
- you they had a problem of any nature with Shauna 11
- 12 Williams?
- Yes. I would say they did. 13 A
- Who? 14 Q
- 15 A Lisa Wright.
- What did Lisa Wright tell you about her problem? 16 Q
- Lisa Wright was Shauna's back up. Shauna and Lisa 17 A
- were -- what we have at CNA are called backups. 18
- 19 You're supposed to work, again, like a small team
- because when this person is out, this person is 20
- 21 supposed to take your work, and Lisa would say that
- 22 Shauna is not a true backup for her because she felt
- 23 like sometimes, I guess, pulling teeth, you know, to
- 24 get to kind of work together.

- Did she explain why she thought this would occur? 1 Q
- 2 A I don't know.
- Any other complaints raised by employees about Shauna 3 Q
- 4 Williams?
- Yes. I would say that there were, I guess -- Doris 5 A
- 6 would notice -- she would say she's not pulling her
- 7 weight as far as work.
- 8 Q Any other complaints?
- I can't remember. 9 A
- Anyone else complain about racially-based statements 10 O
- that she may have made? 11
- 12 A
- How about Grace Clemetson? Any employees complain 13 O
- 14 about her?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q Who?
- 17 A Doris would complain about her. Lisa would complain
- about her. Gerard sometimes would. 18
- 19 Q What was Doris' complaint about Grace Clemetson?
- That Grace didn't like the way that Doris worked. She 20 A
- 21 only wanted, you know, Grace to do her work. Grace
- 22 only wanted to do her work.
- 23 Q Who were the others who complained?
- Lisa. I believe I said Lisa and Gerard. 24 A
 - 60
- What was Lisa's complaint? 10
- 2 A That Grace really wasn't sure of what she was doing;
- 3 that Grace -- her performance was at issue and that
- 4 she's not familiar with some of the things.
- 5 Q Any other -- you said Gerard. What was his complaint?
- Kind of on the same lines; that Grace doesn't
- 7 sometimes seem like she understands things.
- 8 Q Any complaints to you about racial comments being made
- 9 by Grace, racial harassment?
- 10 A No. No.
- 11 Q How about Gretta Thomas? Any employees complain about
- 12 her?
- 13 A No.
- Heather Gill? 14 Q
- 15 A No.
- 16 Q Since Barbara Connick's absence from work, what
- discussions have you had with other employees 17
- 18 regarding her medical status?
- 19 A People ask me when Barbie is coming back, and I just
- 20 tell them that she's out on short-term disability.
- 21 Short-term disability sends me a letter and says,
- 22 Barbie's return to work day is that day.
- 23 When people are asking, I'll say, This is 24
 - the day she's supposed to be coming back, but it may

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